

**B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1        1. (canceled) A game ball comprising:  
2              a casing having a laced region; and  
3              a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an  
4      exposed surface comprised of an outer material that is compressible, resilient, and  
5      tactile, the outer material having a modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>  
6      and a tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1        2. (canceled) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the lacing further  
2      comprises an inner substrate coupled to an outer layer.

1        3. (canceled) The game ball of claim 2, wherein the outer layer is attached  
2      to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of adhesive  
3      bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and combinations  
4      thereof.

1        4. (canceled) The game ball of claim 2, wherein the inner substrate is  
2      formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of a woven  
3      cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at  
4      least one polyester strand, braided fibers, plastic, latex, vinyl, a rope, a wire, a leather  
5      strip and a combination thereof.

1        5. (canceled) The game ball of claim 2 wherein the inner substrate includes  
2      at least one strand of a high tensile strength material and a plastic generally surrounding  
3      to the strand.

1        6. (canceled) The game ball of claim 5 wherein the at least one strand is  
2      formed of a strand material selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a nylon, a  
3      metal and a polymer.

1           7. (canceled) The game ball of claim 1 wherein the outer material has a  
2 modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a tensile strength between 450  
3 and 600 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1           8. (canceled) The game ball of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the  
2 exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

1           9. (canceled) The game ball of claim 1 wherein the outer material is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process  
3 polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, and a combination thereof.

1           10. (canceled) The game ball of claim 1 wherein the casing has a generally  
2 prolate spheroidal shape having a major longitudinal dimension and a minor transverse  
3 dimension, wherein the casing has a central portion disposed between first and second  
4 end portions, wherein the laced region is disposed on the central portion, and wherein  
5 the lacing includes at least one longitudinally extending segment and a plurality of  
6 transversely extending segments.

1           11. (canceled) The game ball of claim 10, wherein the plurality of  
2 transversely extending segments comprises eight transversely extending segments.

1           12. (canceled) The game ball of claim 2, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2 top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side.

1           13. (canceled) The game ball of claim 2, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2 top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side  
3 and the bottom side.

1           14. (canceled) The game ball of claim 2, wherein the outer layer  
2 substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

1           15. (canceled) The game ball of claim 1, wherein the casing is substantially  
2 and primarily formed in a first color and the exposed surface of the lacing is formed in  
3 a second color, and wherein the first and second colors are substantially the same color.

1           16. (canceled) The game ball of claim 1 wherein the casing is substantially  
2 and primarily formed in a first color and the exposed surface of the lacing is formed in  
3 a second color, and wherein the first and second colors are different colors.

1           17. (canceled) A game ball comprising:  
2                 a casing having a laced region; and  
3                 a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an  
4 exposed surface, at least a portion of the exposed surface of the lacing having a.  
5 pebbled texture.

1           18. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17, wherein the entire exposed  
2 surface of the lacing includes the pebbled texture.

1           19. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17, wherein the lacing further  
2 comprises an inner substrate and an outer layer, wherein the outer layer includes the  
3 exposed surface, and wherein the inner substrate is formed from one or more materials  
4 selected from the group consisting of a woven cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane  
5 impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, a metal wire,  
6 a plastic, a vinyl, a polymer, a latex, a rope, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

1           20. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17 wherein the inner substrate  
2 includes at least one strand of a high tensile strength material, and a plastic attached to  
3 and generally surrounding the strand.

1           21. (canceled) The game ball of claim 19 wherein the outer layer is made of  
2 an outer material selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a  
3 dry process polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, and a combination thereof.

1           22. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17 wherein the casing has a generally  
2 prolate spheroidal shape having a major longitudinal dimension and a minor transverse  
3 dimension, wherein the casing has a central portion disposed between first and second  
4 end portions, wherein the laced region is disposed on the central portion, and wherein  
5 the lacing includes at least one longitudinally extending segment and a plurality of  
6 transversely extending segments.

1           23. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17 wherein the casing is substantially  
2 and primarily formed in a first color and the exposed surface of the lacing is formed in  
3 a second color, and wherein the first and second colors are substantially the same color.

1           24. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17 wherein the casing is substantially  
2 and primarily formed in a first color and the exposed surface of the lacing is formed in  
3 a second color, and wherein the first and second colors are different colors.

1           25. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17 wherein the casing includes a  
2 plurality of lace holes and wherein the lacing is threaded to the casing through the lace  
3 holes.

1           26. (canceled) The game ball of claim 17 wherein the lacing is integrally  
2 formed to the casing.

1           27. (canceled) A game ball comprising:  
2                 a casing having a laced region; and  
3                 a lacing coupled to and generally surrounding the laced region of the  
4 casing, the lacing including an inner substrate attached to an outer layer, the outer layer  
5 of the lacing having an exposed surface made of an outer material that is compressible,  
6 resilient, and tactile.

1           28. (canceled) The game ball of claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the  
2 exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

1           29. (withdrawn) A lacing for a sporting goods product, the lacing  
2 comprising:

3                 an inner substrate of high tensile strength material; and  
4                 an outer layer coupled to the inner substrate, the outer layer being made  
5                 of a material that is soft, compressible, resilient, and tactile, the material of the outer  
6                 layer having a modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a tensile  
7                 strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1           30. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29, wherein the sporting goods product  
2 is selected from the group consisting of an American football, a volleyball, a soccer  
3 ball, a basketball, a rugby ball, and a baseball mitt.

1           31. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29, wherein the outer layer is coupled  
2 to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of adhesive  
3 bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and combinations  
4 thereof.

1           32. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29, wherein the inner substrate is  
2 formed from at least one material selected from the group consisting of a woven cloth,  
3 a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at least one  
4 polyester strand, a plastic, a metal wire, a polymer, a latex, a rope, a leather strip and a  
5 combination thereof

1           33. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29 wherein the inner substrate includes  
2 at least one strand of a high tensile strength material and a plastic attached to the strand.

1           34. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29 wherein the material of the outer  
2         layer has a modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a tensile strength  
3         between 450 and 600 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1           35. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29 wherein the outer layer has an  
2         exposed surface, and wherein at least a portion of the exposed surface is pebbled.

1           36. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29 wherein the material of the outer  
2         layer is selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process  
3         polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, and a combination thereof.

1           37. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2         top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side.

1           38. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2         top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side  
3         and the bottom side.

1           39. (withdrawn) The lacing of claim 29, wherein the outer layer  
2         substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

1           40. (canceled) A game ball comprising:  
2                 a casing having a curved outer surface and a laced region; and  
3                 a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing and outwardly  
4         extending from the curved outer surface of the casing, the lacing having an exposed  
5         surface comprised of an outer material that is compressible, resilient, and tactile, the  
6         outer material having a modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a  
7         tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, the lacing including a plurality of  
8         transversely extending lace segments and at least one longitudinally extending segment,  
9         the lacing being a unitary integral cord assembly along the length of the at least one

10 longitudinally extending segment and at least one of the transversely extending lace  
11 segments.

1           41. (canceled) The game ball of claim 40, wherein the lacing further  
2 comprises an inner substrate coupled to an outer layer.

1           42. (canceled) The game ball of claim 41, wherein the outer layer is  
2 attached to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of  
3 adhesive bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and  
4 combinations thereof.

1           43. (canceled) The game ball of claim 41, wherein the inner substrate is  
2 formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of a woven  
3 cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at  
4 least one polyester strand, braided fibers, plastic, latex, vinyl, a rope, a wire, a leather  
5 strip and a combination thereof.

1           44. (canceled) The game ball of claim 41 wherein the inner substrate  
2 includes at least one strand of a high tensile strength material and a plastic generally  
3 surrounding to the strand.

1           45. (canceled) The game ball of claim 44 wherein the at least one strand is  
2 formed of a strand material selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a nylon, a  
3 metal and a polymer.

1           46. (canceled) The game ball of claim 40 wherein the outer material has a  
2 modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a tensile strength between 450  
3 and 600 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1           47. (canceled) The game ball of claim 40 wherein at least a portion of the  
2 exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

1           48. (canceled) The game ball of claim 40 wherein the outer material is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process  
3 polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, and a combination thereof.

1           49. (canceled) The game ball of claim 41, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2 top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side.

1           50. (canceled) The game ball of claim 41, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2 top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side  
3 and the bottom side.

1           51. (canceled) The game ball of claim 41, wherein the outer layer  
2 substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

1           52. (canceled) A game ball comprising:  
2                 a casing having and a laced region; and  
3                 a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an  
4 exposed surface comprised of an outer material that is compressible, resilient, and  
5 tactile, the outer material having a modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>,  
6 the lacing defining a non-diverging path as it extends about the laced region.

1           53. (canceled) The game ball of claim 52, wherein the lacing further  
2 comprises an inner substrate coupled to an outer layer.

1           54. (canceled) The game ball of claim 53, wherein the outer layer is  
2 attached to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of  
3 adhesive bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and  
4 combinations thereof.

1           55. (canceled) The game ball of claim 53, wherein the inner substrate is  
2 formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of a woven

3 cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, at least one nylon strand, at  
4 least one polyester strand, braided fibers, plastic, latex, vinyl, a rope, a wire, a leather  
5 strip and a combination thereof.

1 56. (canceled) The game ball of claim 53 wherein the inner substrate  
2 includes at least one strand of a high tensile strength material and a plastic generally  
3 surrounding to the strand.

1 57. (canceled) The game ball of claim 56 wherein the at least one strand is  
2 formed of a strand material selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a nylon, a  
3 metal and a polymer.

1 58. (canceled) The game ball of claim 52 wherein the outer material has a  
2 modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a tensile strength between 450  
3 and 600 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1 59. (canceled) The game ball of claim 52 wherein at least a portion of the  
2 exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

1 60. (canceled) The game ball of claim 52 wherein the outer material is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process  
3 polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, and a combination thereof.

1 61. (canceled) The game ball of claim 53, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2 top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side.

1 62. (canceled) The game ball of claim 53, wherein the inner substrate has a  
2 top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side  
3 and the bottom side.

1        63. (canceled) The game ball of claim 53, wherein the outer layer  
2 substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

1        64. (canceled) The game ball of claim 52, wherein the outer material has a  
2 tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>

1        65. (currently amended) A game ball comprising:  
2              a casing having a curved outer surface and a laced region; and  
3              a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing and outwardly  
4 extending from the curved outer surface of the casing, the lacing having an exposed  
5 surface comprised of an outer material that is compressible, resilient, and tactile, the  
6 outer material having ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a~~  
7 tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, the lacing including a plurality of  
8 transversely extending lace segments and at least one longitudinally extending segment,  
9 the lacing being a unitary integral cord assembly along the length of the at least one  
10 longitudinally extending segment and at least one of the transversely extending lace  
11 segments.

1        66. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 65 wherein the outer  
2 material has ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and a tensile~~  
3 strength between 450 and 600 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1        67. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 66, wherein the lacing further  
2 comprises an inner substrate coupled to an outer layer.

1        68. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the outer layer is  
2 attached to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of  
3 adhesive bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and  
4 combinations thereof.

1        69. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate is  
2 formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of a woven  
3 cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, and a combination thereof.

1        70. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate is  
2 formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of at least  
3 one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, braided fibers, plastic, latex, vinyl, a  
4 rope, a wire, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

1        71. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate  
2 includes at least one strand of a high tensile strength material and a plastic generally  
3 surrounding to the strand.

1        72. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 71 wherein the at least one strand is  
2 formed of a strand material selected from the group consisting of a polyester, a nylon, a  
3 metal and a polymer.

1        73. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 66 wherein at least a portion of the  
2 exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

1        74. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 66 wherein the outer material is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process  
3 polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, other polymers, other foams, and a  
4 combination thereof.

1        75. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate has  
2 a top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top  
3 side.

1        76. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the inner substrate has  
2 a top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top side  
3 and the bottom side.

1        77. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 67, wherein the outer layer  
2 substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

1        78. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 65 wherein the outer  
2 material has ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 70 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~ and a tensile strength  
3 between 450 and 524 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1        79. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 65 wherein the outer  
2 material has ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 71 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~ and a tensile  
3 strength between 525 and 600kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1        80. (currently amended) A game ball comprising:  
2              a casing having and a laced region; and  
3              a lacing coupled to the laced region of the casing, the lacing having an  
4 exposed surface comprised of an outer material that is compressible, resilient, and  
5 tactile, the outer material having ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 14 and 170 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~  
6 a tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, the lacing defining a non-diverging path  
7 as it extends about the laced region.

1        81. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer  
2 material has ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>~~ and a tensile  
3 strength between 450 and 600 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1        82. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the lacing further  
2 comprises an inner substrate coupled to an outer layer.

1        83. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the outer layer is  
2 attached to the inner substrate using a means selected from the group consisting of  
3 adhesive bonding, stitching, stapling, mechanical bonding, heat bonding and  
4 combinations thereof.

1        84. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the inner substrate is  
2 formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of a woven  
3 cloth, a non-woven cloth, a urethane impregnated cloth, and a combination thereof.

1        85. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the inner substrate is  
2 formed from one or more inner materials selected from the group consisting of at least  
3 one nylon strand, at least one polyester strand, braided fibers, plastic, latex, vinyl, a  
4 rope, a wire, a leather strip and a combination thereof.

1        86. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the inner substrate has  
2 a top side and a bottom side, and wherein the outer layer is attached only to the top  
3 side.

1        87. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 81, wherein the outer layer  
2 substantially surrounds the inner substrate.

1        88. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 80, wherein at least a portion of the  
2 exposed surface includes a pebbled texture.

1        89. (unchanged) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer material is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a wet process polyurethane, a dry process  
3 polyurethane, a polyvinylchloride foam, and a combination thereof.

1        90. (canceled) The game ball of claim 80, wherein the outer material has a  
2 tensile strength between 100 and 650 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1           91. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer  
2 material has ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 30 and 70 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and~~ a tensile strength  
3 between 450 and 524 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

1           92. (currently amended) The game ball of claim 80 wherein the outer  
2 material has ~~a modulus of elasticity of between 71 and 110 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> and~~ a tensile  
3 strength between 525 and 600 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

### C. CONCLUSION

With this response to the Notices of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on July 12, 2004 and July 26, 2004, and the Reply filed on June 10, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 65-89, 91 and 92. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any issues in this case in order to advance the prosecution thereof.

No fee is believed due in association with this Response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 501959.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 6 August 2004  
Wilson Sporting Goods Co.  
8700 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631

By Terence P. O'Brien  
Terence P. O'Brien  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 43,840

Telephone: (773) 714-6498  
Facsimile: (773) 714-4557